

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald R. Boys (Reg No: 35,074) on 04/08/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claims:

25. A data router comprising:

a plurality of physical communication ports;

at least one hierarchical bond having a logical interface as a component of the bond at a top level of the hierarchy defining a portion of the plurality of physical communication ports, and a first subjugate logical interface at a second level of the hierarchy as a component of the top-level logical interface further defining a portion of the physical communication ports defined at the top level of the hierarchy, and

a control system for managing links in data routing, the control system having a first portion recording availability status of the hierarchical bonds for routing of data by monitoring status either up or down of both logical and physical interfaces and ports of the at least one hierarchical bond, and a second portion providing configuration input for use in the monitoring by the first portion;

wherein one or more thresholds are configured for an interface characteristic through the second portion for individual ones of the logical interfaces, a logical interface considered up having a determined amount of data links with sufficient bandwidth or down having a determined amount of data links with insufficient bandwidth according to a current value of the characteristic for the interface in relation to the value of the configured threshold or thresholds.

30. (Canceled).

31. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein a threshold configured for a logical interface is an up threshold such that the logical interface is considered up if the instant value of the threshold characteristic for the logical interface has the configured relationship to the configured value of the up threshold.

32. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein a threshold set for a logical interface is a down threshold such that that the logical interface is considered down if the

instant value of the threshold characteristic for the logical interface has the configured relationship to the configured value of the down threshold.

33. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein two threshold values differing in magnitude are configured for an individual one of the logical interfaces, one being an up threshold, and the other a down threshold, such that the logical interface may be considered up even though it no longer meets the configured relationship of the up threshold, but does not yet meet the configured relationship for the down threshold, or may be considered down even though the threshold characteristic for the interface no longer meets the configured relationship for the down threshold, but does not yet meet the configured relationship for the up threshold.

35. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein the second portion comprises one or more of a graphical user interface (GUI), a control line interface (CLI), for configuring bond characteristics, or an SNMP interface for configuring bond characteristics.

36. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein the communication system comprises a plurality of nodes each having a plurality of physical ports, wherein bonds are defined for individual nodes using the ports specific to the nodes, and the control system comprises a plurality of first portions each specific to an individual one of

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the nodes, and a common second portion providing configuration input to the plurality of nodes.

37. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein the characteristic for thresholds associated with an interface is the up or down state of components of the interface, expressed as a number up or a number down.

38. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein the characteristic for thresholds associated with an interface is a percentage of the number of components of the interface having an up or a down state.

39. The data router of claim ~~30~~25 wherein the characteristic for thresholds is a fixed bandwidth value.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 7-19, 21-29, 31-39 are allowed over prior art. Claims 1-6, 20, 30 are canceled.

The prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest the following limitations recited in independent claims:

Claim 7:

“(b) defining a first subjugate logical interface at a second level of the hierarchical bond as an element of the top-level logical interface by defining a plurality of first portions each specific to an individual one of the nodes recording availability status of the hierarchical bonds for routing of data by monitoring characteristics of both logical and physical interfaces and data links of the hierarchical bond,

(c) defining a common second portion providing configuration input to the plurality of nodes for use in the monitoring by the first portion;“

Claim 25:

“a control system for managing links in data routing, the control system having a first portion recording availability status of the hierarchical bonds for routing of data by monitoring status either up or down of both logical and physical interfaces and ports of the at least one hierarchical bond, and a second portion providing configuration input for use in the monitoring by the first portion;

wherein one or more thresholds are configured for an interface characteristic through the second portion for individual ones of the logical interfaces,”

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Venkatesh Haliyur whose telephone number is 571-272-8616. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edan Orgad can be reached on 571-272-7884. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Venkatesh Haliyur/

Examiner, Art Unit 2619

/Edan Orgad/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2619